

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2296

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

UNCLASS LOURENCO MARUES 0018

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, MZ

SUBJECT: FLOODS IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE

1. HEAVY RAINS IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE HAVE CAUSED A NUMBER OF RIVERS TO RISE CONSIDERABLY DURING PAST WEEK, ESPECIALLY SAVE RIVER WHICH ENTERS SEA AT NOVA MAMBOOE. BY JANUARY 2, ABOUT 100,000 HECTARES NEAR THE RIVERMOUTH WERE REPORTED UNDER WATER, WITH SOME 8,000 RESIDENTS EVACUATED. RESCUE EFFORTS WERE, AS IS CUSTOMARY, DIRECTED BY PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS QUEIROZ, AND EMPLOYED SERVICES OF SEVERAL DC-3'S AS WELL AS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HELICOPTERS. THREE DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. BY JANUARY 6 SITUATION SEEMED FOR MOMENT TO BE IMPROVING, BUT PREDICTED HEAVY RAINS IN RHODESIA MAY WELL CAUSE RIVER TO RISE AGAIN. SOME 50 PERCENT OF THE REGION'S RICE AND CORN REPORTED LOST.

2. THERE HAS BEEN FLOODING IN RECENT DAYS, AS WELL, ALONG THE BUZI AND MAPUTO RIVERS.

3. COMMENT: FLOODS ARE A FAR FROM UNCOMMON OCCURANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND LOCAL EXPERTS ARE PREDICTING A WET YEAR. THE IMMEDIATE THREAT, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO BE RECEDING.
VAN OSS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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